



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

December 2017



Time for Preparation

It wasn't that long ago that Daylight Savings time ended and we turned our clocks back an hour. Time will stay this way until March 11 of next year, when we will spring forward an hour. I wish I knew who was in charge of this, because I want to tell them to stop. Since we fell back an hour, I'm finding myself falling asleep at eight o'clock at night.

Moving our clocks backward and forward an hour is a way to eke out more daylight. Most people prefer to be in the light, but as our earth turns, our daylight hours will continue to decrease. The shortest number of daylight hours, the Winter Solstice, will be on December 21 in the Northern Hemisphere.

Recently, it may seem a reflection of our times that days are getting darker. We hear so often of another mass shooting using what is comparable to an assault weapon. How dark our times have become when we are not surprised at mass murders of innocent people taking place within minutes. The number of women who admitted *#metoo*, indicating that they had been sexually assaulted, shocking, and sparked accusations by both women and men that are being highlighted in the news. It has become painfully clear that racial prejudice and discrimination still exists.

Violence, war, injustice, hatred – there is darkness in our world. This was true in when Jesus was born. The Roman government was oppressive. Taxation was high on those who could least afford it. There were large bodies of slave labor. The Roman Empire waged war, gaining control of land near the Mediterranean Sea. They ruled tyrannically over the Jews.

The presence of evil has been around for a long time. Clearly God does not promise us that there will be no darkness. But in the midst of it, there God is. *In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising..."* (Matthew 2:1-2a).

Jesus the Christ is revealed in the darkness. Christ is the light that no darkness can overcome. This one of the paradoxes of faith. We see the light most clearly when we are in the dark. We light candles at night because they are hard to see in the brightness of the day. The stars in the sky are easiest to see when we are in the wilderness.

Advent is the time of preparation in which we look not only for the birth of God in human flesh, but also for Christ to come again. God promises to be with us. In the middle of frenzied crowds at stores, in your reading the latest news from the day, and even at the dinner table with your aunts and cousins, look for the light!

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling to our homebound members sings out joy for everyone involved! Join us on **Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 PM** to travel in teams to our members who are not be able to participate in our worship services. Bring chili, corn bread, or cookies to share afterwards. We anticipate returning to the church at **6:00 PM**. Contact **Pastor Griffin** for more information.



Worship and Fellowship for Christmas

December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent

- **8:30 and 11:00 AM** – Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve (all services with candle light)

- **5:00 PM** – Worship featuring the children and youth of our congregation and Preschool. Holy Communion
- **6:15 PM** – Pot Luck Meal in the Fellowship Hall. (Bring extra food, because we often host visitors!)
- **7:30 PM** – Worship featuring sermon, choir and Holy Communion
- **10:00 PM** – Worship featuring sermon, choir and Holy Communion

Christmas Day

- **10:00 AM** – Worship with Holy Communion – St. Martin's Episcopal Church

First Sunday of Christmas, December 31

- **8:30 and 11:00 AM** – Worship with Holy Communion

Music Notes from Karen



Happy New Year! Yes, the Liturgical New Year begins on the **1st Sunday of Advent, December 3** – a great time to make New Year's Resolutions after giving thanks for all God's blessings over the Thanksgiving Holiday. Perhaps, one of those resolutions would be to explore your gifts and talents in a way to enhance the musical life of St. Stephen. I would love to hear from you – whether you can sing, play recorder, guitar, or even kazoo, let us work together to figure out a plan to plug into the music ministries.

A great start would be volunteering to sing in one of our choirs for the Advent/Christmas Season. We have lots of opportunities: Wednesday Evening Prayer services – I need a C-instrument player and volunteer cantors and guitarists, too. Christmas Eve, come join us as we sing anthems based on folk tunes of French, Burgundian, Welsh, Bohemian and Gaelic origins. The congregation is asked to please arrive 15 minutes early before the **7:30 and 10:00 PM** services to enjoy our extended prelude. Early service (**8:30 AM**) choir meets between Sunday morning worship services to rehearse, and the late service (**11:00 AM**) choir meets on Wednesday evenings following our Advent Evening Prayer services. Make a joyful noise to the Lord in this New Liturgical Year!



Announcing a Joint Episcopal-Lutheran Book Study!

Since 1999, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church have enjoyed Full Communion. In recent years, members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church and St. Martin's Episcopal Church have used that as an opportunity to worship together during Holy Week. Let's build on our relationship! Let's talk together about the basics of our Christian faith, using two books by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams: *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*, and *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life*.

Thursday afternoon sessions will be **2:30 to 4:00 PM** at St. Martin's (1333 Jamestown Road). Monday evening sessions will be **7:00 to 8:30 PM** at St. Stephen (612 Jamestown Road). Attend one session each week, either Thursday or Monday, according to what your calendar tells you! **Pastor Andy Ballentine** of St. Stephen will facilitate most sessions.

Session Schedule

Being Christian

<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	
January 4	January 8	Chapter 1: Baptism
January 18	January 22	Chapter 2: Bible
January 25	January 29	Chapter 3: Eucharist
February 1	February 5	Chapter 4: Prayer

Being Disciples

<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Mondays</u>	
February 8	February 12	Chapter 1: Being Disciples
February 22	February 26	Chapter 2: Faith, Hope and Love
March 1	March 5	Chapter 3: Forgiveness
March 8	March 12	Chapter 4: Holiness
March 15	March 19	Chapter 5: Faith in Society
March 22	March 26	Chapter 6: Life in the Spirit

If you would like us to order a copy of either or both books, e-mail Pastor Ballentine at pastorab@saintstephenlutheran.net

Being Christian will cost \$10. *Being Disciples* will cost \$9.



DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

The significance of baptism, Luther teaches in the *Small Catechism*, is “that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

Your baptismal anniversary is an opportunity to light a baptismal candle and to give some prayer time to reflecting on your experiences during the past year on your journey in faith!

Pastor Andy Ballentine

December 3	Soni York
December 6	Klara Cave
December 11	Linda Laity Hite, Linda Vonderheide
December 16	Billy Miller
December 17	Pam Groman, Kara Meermans, Ursula Murden
December 19	Chuck Frey
December 24	Stacey Cummings
December 26	Ursula Recktenwald
December 27	Terry Hughes
December 28	Sonja Cave
December 29	Jayme Lawson

Also baptized during December: Erika Geier

Were you baptized in December, but your name isn't on the list above? Let us know!



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **December 5** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **December 7** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.

Both gatherings take place at **8:00 AM** at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road, Williamsburg, VA. The get-togethers promote conversation and friendship in a casual setting.

WOMEN'S RETREAT



Connections: Our Life Story, Our Faith Story
Women's Retreat 2018 - St. Stephen

Save the date! Our Women's Retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, March 10**. Retired pastor **Judy Cobb** will lead us, exploring *Connections: Our Life Story, Our Faith Story*. We will be spending the day at St. Stephen, from **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**, with an “After Party” for those who would like to keep the conversation going! Childcare will be provided.





Music and Food for Your Health

Community Café Wmbg

December 7, 2017 1:00-3:00 PM

St. Martins Episcopal Church, 1333 Jamestown Road

Join your friends for an interactive program for enriching mind, body, and spirit through music. Becky Watson from Music for Wellness will engage your inner musician (no experience necessary). There will also be a short presentation on nutritious easy to make soups-including a tasting treat.

The Café is free and open to Williamsburg residents age 60+, or caregivers. It is sponsored by local congregations, businesses, and the PAA. Join us for a short presentation, snacks and prizes.



Parking News

Here's how the parking works around the St. Stephen building:

On Sunday mornings:

- Parking is permitted in the College parking lot across the street from the church building.
- If you have no trouble walking, please park in the College lot. If you have trouble walking, feel free to park in the driveway around the church building, or right in front of the building on Jamestown Road.
- Parking is permitted on Sundays along Jamestown Road, on the other side of the street from our building, from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

On weekends (5:00 PM Friday through Sunday night):

- Parking is unrestricted in the College parking lot across the street from the church building.

On evenings during the week (after 5:00 PM):

- Parking is available to us and to community groups in the College parking lot across the street from the church building.

New Members

Rich and Sharon Brown
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Sharon: sjb911@gmail.com



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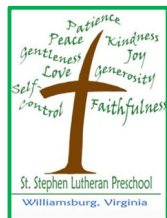
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ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



What fun we had with two days of Halloween parades at our Preschool – Martin Luther even showed up on October 31. It was great fun seeing the children and teachers dressed up for the holiday.

We jumped right into an active November with a field trip to Jamestown Settlement. Our self-guided tour gave our children, parents, and teachers the opportunity to explore the Indian village, the three ships and the fort while participating in a scavenger hunt. Check out the pictures on our St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool Facebook page.

We do love when the bookmobile comes to visit. Twice a month Mr. Chris brings the Mobile Library Services Unit to St. Stephen. He reads our children a story, and then they have the opportunity to go aboard the bookmobile to choose a book to keep for the month. There are prized acquisitions each visit!

Our extended day children were delighted to have **Carole Meyer** come with her therapy dog, Gemma. Carole and Gemma are Williamsburg celebrities as children look to have them read stories.

Thank you for your support at our fundraiser at Blaze Pizza. It is wonderful to see church members and preschool families meeting, talking, and eating together. The bonus to these events is that the Preschool earns a little money, too.

In December our Frog Class (five-year olds) will go to Phi Beta Kappa Hall to watch a performance of *The Nutcracker*. Our children will dress for the theatre and walk across the street for this one-hour production by the Virginia Regional Ballet.

For our Christmas parties this year, our children will help **Pastor Andy** tell the Christmas story for their parents on **December 14 and 15**. Music teacher **Patty Ballentine** taught the children songs and Art teacher Kelly Kirkpatrick designed the costuming. We will celebrate Christmas with a special luncheon buffet and birthday cake for the baby Jesus. We invite church

members to attend on **Friday, December 15**. Let me know if you will be attending.

Our December Spirit events will be at School Crossing on **Friday, December 1** – **Bob and Sherry Phipps** are donating 15% of St. Stephen Preschool sales back to our school! On **Saturday, December 2**, visit Kilwins Chocolates on Prince George Street – owners Lauren and Chad Sedleker, Preschool parents, are donating 15% of St. Stephen Preschool sales! Two great opportunities for Christmas gift shopping. Be sure to mention the Preschool to help with these fundraising efforts.

Thank you to our congregation and friends for coming out and supporting the school at our Spirit events. It's also so much fun to come in to work and see a bag hanging on my door with yogurt cups, or stickers, or paper for use in the Preschool. Thank you for thinking of us.

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator



Quilt Winner

Nelia and Bob Lamoureux are delighted with their new quilt. Nelia had the winning ticket for the quilt raffled in support of Lutheran World Relief. The LWR quilters thank members of the congregation who helped raise \$510 in support of this ministry.





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Abigail Cummings	
2	Gisela Fashing	Peter Geier
4	Andy Ballentine	Mitchell Stauffer
	Sarah Toler	
6	Chandler Reubush	Suzie Walker
8	Kristin Cosby	
11	John Allen	
12	Jean Gulesian	Joey Pierce
	Barbara Youngk	
13	Birdie Burton	Pamela Franck
	Marj Gottschalk-Trone	Lori Harms
14	Cindy Gibbs	Hannalore Herion
15	Carla Javier	Diane McCurry
16	Ursula Murden	
18	Gretchen Williams	
20	Kathryn Ogborn	Tom Peterkin
21	June Henderson	Casey Toler
	Robert Voigt	
24	Amy Bergh	Jan MacQueston
26	Carolee Bush	
27	Otis Childress	
30	Rosalie Frey	James Stein
31	Betty Shaughnessy	

Inquirer's Class

Would you like to know more about St. Stephen Lutheran Church? Are you interested in meeting others who have recently begun attending? Our Inquirer's Class will meet in the College Room at **10:00 AM** on **Sunday, December 10** and **Sunday, December 17**. For those interested in joining our congregation, we will be receiving new members on Baptism of Our Lord **Sunday, January 7**.



PRAYERS



We give thanks to God for the 96 years of life given to Elsie Hall and Jo Schumacher! Send them your birthday wishes!

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Otis Childress, Sally Crocker, Linda Laity Hite, Gary Krull, Paul Reier, and Kathy Skube.**

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: **Philip Arnold, Martha and Gene Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Ursula Murden, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.**

Pray God's blessings on **Sharon and Michael Powell, and Kristin and Chris Stahl,** as they await the birth of their babies.

Pray God's blessings on those in our community who have no permanent home asking God to give strength to those who are serving them through the Community of Faith Mission.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: **Jim, Dianna, Nathalee Accomando, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Grady Calhoun, Elaine Cari, Marla Canny, Arlene Carruthers, Peter Cline, Shirley Cocke, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Inge Felbier, Karen Felton, Mary Fitzgerald, Mertie Funkhouser, Carol Gildner, Bill Gottschalk, Jean Gray, Sara Jane Harlan, Andy Havola, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Bill Holcombe, Marian Hunt, Anne Johns, David Johnson, Fran Kibler, Tim Keaney, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Mary Beth LaFave, Gaston Lambert, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Abbey Mayer, McGraw family, Bruce Milne, Louise Mitchell, Heidi Morris, Mary Newberg, Barb Pendleton, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Dino Polizois, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Brad Ross, Shann Rufer, Kenneth Sage, Linda Smalarz, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Karl Spiker, Dave Splittorff, James Storm, Janelle Story, Pierrette Tipton, Kimberly Turner, Sue Weilmuenster, Janea Whitacre, Scott Wimbish, Mark Woodbridge, and Micah Zabell.**



Thank you for your recent endowment gift of \$1,000.00. Your faithful generosity makes a life-changing, life-saving difference. Thank you.

Endowment gifts are managed by the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and make a real difference in the lives of others. Thanks to your generosity, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is a church at work in the world, doing God's work with our hands, proclaiming Christ's redeeming love to all. I pray that you will find great joy in knowing what your gift makes possible in the lives of others.

As the ELCA, we do more together than we ever could do alone. We are a church that rolls up its sleeves and solves problems – doing God's work in the world. Thank you for your support.

In Christ,

Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Jo Moore

Janet Estes
Sarah Estes



Dan Stimson

Harlan and Anne Schone
Heather Macdonald
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thomas
Henry and Marilyn Mallue
Donald Carter, Southern Gas Company
George and Gerri Bass

Endowment Gift

John Croushore in honor of Sandy Croushore

Stephen Ministers Listen - and Keep Quiet



Those who find themselves facing a new or worsened condition in their lives – such as some sort of loss, separation or health issue – may find it helpful to accept the care of a Stephen Minister. Quite a few members in our congregation have been specially prepared for this role through 50 hours of initial training, plus monthly continuing education sessions with colleagues and a Stephen Ministry Leader.

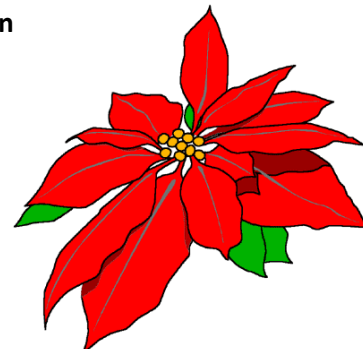
This training stresses that the most effective way to help their care receiver better deal with their situation is by attentive active listening. This permits the Stephen Minister to better understand your situation and concerns and feelings about it, and to empathize with you.

There is no way for the Stephen Minister to fix your problem, but by an occasional question during one of your meetings – generally weekly, but at least a few times a month – the Stephen Minister can help you find avenues to make your situation somewhat easier to deal with.

And all of this comes with complete confidentiality. None of the particulars of a care receiver situation are divulged in Stephen Ministry meetings, and other Stephen Ministers do not even know the names of those care receivers their colleagues are serving. That is why the long established principles of this worldwide Stephen Ministry program work so well.

If you or someone you know might benefit from a Stephen Minister relationship, or if you would be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, speak to either Pastor, or phone our Stephen Leader, **Jane Wills** at (703) 989-4118.

Ward Bourn



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road
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www.saintstephenlutheran.net



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
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<i>Vice President</i>	John McCurry	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
	(on sabbatical)	
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

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Amy Bergh	566-4557
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